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E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: TEXTILES AND APPAREL SECTOR NEW ZEALAND: UPDATED
STATISTICS AND PROJECTION OF COMPETITIVENESS

REF: SECSTATE 138090

1. New Zealand (NZ) is recognized as a global leader in the production of sheep wool. With the exception of wool, this country's textile requirements are dominated by imports. New Zealand sheep wool is the variety that is used mainly in interior textiles such as carpets, upholstery, furnishings, beddings and rugs. It is also used for hand-knitting yarn and in knitwear and blankets. The industry has estimated that 34% of new Zealand wool is used in machine-made carpets, 12% in hand-knotted and hand-tufted carpets, 44% in apparel and 10% in other uses, primarily upholstery and bedding.

2. The United States ranks as New Zealand's sixth most significant apparel import source. China is the leading source of apparel imports. Chinese apparel imports represent approx 75% of the import market. After China, Australia is New Zealand's next most significant import source. In response to reftel, Statistics New Zealand reports for 2005 the following:

- The value of total industrial production is approx. 45,720,848,000 USD.
- The value of total textile/apparel production is approx. 1,628,696,000 USD
- Textiles/Apparel comprise 1% of all NZ exports and 3.4% of all NZ imports.
- The value of textile and apparel imports to NZ in 2005 is 858,710,000 USD of which
 - Chinese textile/apparel imports equal approx. 522,230,000 USD
 - U.S. textile/apparel imports equal approx. 25,233,000 USD
- The value of NZ textile/apparel exports to the U.S. is approx. 38,551,000 USD
- Of a total employed workforce of 2, 033, 800 in 2005, 292,700 were employed in the manufacturing sector of the economy.

Note: Statistics New Zealand will be publishing more updated tables in a month and Post will update figures if required.
End note.
Keegan